

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

Q | My friend submitted his EMT renewal application before I did. His last name is Williams and mine is Butler. I assumed because my name came first alphabetically, my application would be processed first. Why did his application get approved before mine?

DSHS: Applications are not processed alphabetically, but in the order in which they are received. The EMS Certification Office keeps all applications in order of receipt date, and our staff process them in that order. So, simply, the reason your friend's application was approved first was because he submitted it before you submitted yours. EMS Certification recommends you submit your application at least six weeks prior to your expiration date

to accommodate processing time. Also, once you have completed one of the required renewal options, you can submit your application as much as one year prior to your expiration date, without losing any time. For example, if your expiration date is July 31, 2012, you can submit your renewal application on July 31, 2011, and once your application is approved, your new expiration date will be four years following your previous expiration date of 2012, making your new expiration date July 31, 2016. Contact the EMS Certification Office at (512) 834-6734 if you need additional information.

Q | I attended National Incident Management System (NIMS) classes during my last certification period. Can I use the hours from those classes as continuing education hours? If

yes, how many CE hours are they worth?

DSHS: Yes. The National Incident Management courses are provided via a federal agency, FEMA, and are considered acceptable continuing education. The amount of CE per class is counted hour-for-hour. For example, if you attended an eight-hour NIMS course, you would be able to count eight hours of CE for that class. For more information on the CE breakdown of the NIMS classes by category, visit the FEMA website, <http://training.fema.gov/is/ceus.asp>. For more information about DSHS-approved continuing education hours, visit the EMS Certification website at www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/continuinged.shtm or call (512) 834-6734.

Thieves targeting ambulances

A word of caution: There have been reports of thieves targeting ambulances left idling outside emergency rooms. Fire departments in North Texas have lost a defibrillator and a bag of medications, among other items, according to WFAA, a television station in Dallas. Investigators think the thieves are selling the items.

EMS Local Projects Grant Update

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Office of Emergency Medical Services/Trauma Systems Coordination (OEMS/TS) has received 136 Local Projects Grant (LPG) applications for fiscal year 2012 funding consideration. Staff has made recommendations and those have been sent to DSHS contract staff. Check our web page for updates and award announcements. For general information about the Local Projects Grant Program, go to www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/LPGfunding.shtm.



Look for additional details and submission requirements at www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/11conference.shtm

2nd Annual Texas EMS Research Forum
At the 2011 Texas EMS Conference
Deadline for Abstract Submission: October 21, 2011